

EVERARD READ

MATTHEW HINDLEY

(1974 - 2025 Cape Town, South Africa)

One of South Africa's most recognised contemporary painters, Matthew Hindley's intense, poetic and delving artworks featured in various seminal South African and international exhibitions. With a series of solo exhibitions charting his trajectory from figuration to abstraction and back again, Hindley fully engaged the sensational capabilities of both, pushing every centimetre of his surfaces in order to stimulate the full spectrum of experiential reaction, while searching for his own uniquely recognisable voice within the idiom.

Hindley's process relied on the raw building blocks that classically make up a painting: line, colour and form. He explored each of these formal aspects, while encouraging paint to be paint, inventing and developing an expanding array of applications. His later work, focusing on physical dimensionality and light and shade, explored with an almost childlike wonder the possibilities of paint. Hindley presented an exuberant experience celebrating the formal aspects of abstract painting while also revealing the richness of his adaptive and transformative practice.

Hindley presented a short film at the world renowned Eli and Edythe Broad Museum, Michigan and the Kochi Muziris Biennale, India (2012). In 2015 he worked on a series of paintings inspired by the mythological African tales of South African writer Don Mattera, for a book published by Rhodeworks in Berlin, Germany. In 2015 his artwork was part of the *imago mundi* Benetton Collection at the Venice Biennale. Also in that year, Hindley participated in *TWENTY: Contemporary art from South Africa*, which travelled from Turchin Centre for the Visual Arts, North Carolina, to the Beijing Biennale, China. In early 2019, his major public sculpture *Speak Naturally and Continuously* was upgraded and reinstalled above the entrance of the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2021, Hindley was included in the survey show *National Identity* at the ESPRONCEDA Institute of Art and Culture in Barcelona, Spain, alongside other acclaimed South African artists, including William Kentridge and Zanele Muholi.

Hindley maintained an interest in the possibilities of science to produce art, expressed in a number of key works. His engagement with technology inserted an interactive realm of vision and experience. This reactivity to the present physical world is a typical feature of Hindley's new media projects, such as *Speak naturally and continuously*. The work, displayed above the entrance of the Iziko South African National Gallery, listened to conversations in the gallery atrium, translating them into a dadaistic and poetic stream of text that runs live across a dot matrix screen.

Other examples of his interaction with technology are his electronic paintings, where a camera in the frame feeds projections through a translucent abstracted surface, creating a living portrait. As the scenes in front of the camera constantly shift, so does the image, and the viewer is confronted with the landscapes of their own contemporary existence.

The optical functioning of the electronic works also references Hindley's series of rainbow paintings through their mutual foundation in the splitting of light into a prism, allowing his love of paint to connect to the contemporary technological era. 'The rainbow is the expression of the infinite possibilities of colour,' Hindley explained. 'To the artist, it's the basis of the colour palette itself. The dispersal of white light into its component colours offers a kind of unlocking, a window into a miraculous world.'

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Matthew Hindley graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, in 2002. He was awarded the Michaelis Prize for the best final exhibition in his year. He lived and worked in Cape Town.

EDUCATION

2002 Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, SA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 Memoryscapes, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
2021 Double Rainbow, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, SA
2019 The Brush Itself Incites, Vault Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2018 The Divided Self, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Survey of Risk, David Krut, Johannesburg, SA
2017 A Selection of Works, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
2015 Resurrection (Der Brennende Wald), Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
The Five Magic Pebbles & other stories (by Don Mattera), David Krut Projects, Cape Town, SA
2013 Twilight of the Idols, Biksady Galeria, Budapest, Hungary
2012 One Pearl of Great Price, VOLTA8, Basel, Switzerland
2011 The Solo Project, Basel, Switzerland
An Everlasting Once, Brundyn+, Cape Town, SA
2009 Like, like, like, like a Circus, Brundyn+ Wembley Project Space, Cape Town, SA
Black Out, Brundyn+, Cape Town, SA
2007 Private Vernissage (with Kromschröder & Pfannenschmidt), Berlin, Germany
2006 Before My Time, 34Long, Cape Town, SA
2005 Speak Naturally & Continuously, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2004 Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, SA
Surrender, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, SA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 We the People: 30 years of democracy in South Africa, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
Matter Matters, Everard Read, London, UK
2024 Inner Sanctum, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
Southern Light, Everard Read, London, UK
2023 What I Feel When I Think About The Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
2023 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Collide, Featherstone Centre for the Arts, Massachusetts, USA
What I feel when I think about the cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
2022 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Pop-Up, Atelier Louis & Artloft, Hasselt, Belgium
Spring, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
Things I'd like to remember, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2021 National Identity, ESPRONCEDA Institute of Art and Culture, Barcelona, Spain
Summer 2021, Everard Read, London, UK
Offering, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
In Conversation, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Oasis, 25th Anniversary Exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2020 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
IMAGO, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA

EVERARD READ

- TINY2020, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Journeys of the Mind, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
Staring Straight to the Future, Everard Read, SA & UK
Finer Things, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, SA
- 2019 Filling in the Gaps, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
Self, Gallery at Glen Carlou, Stellenbosch, SA
Context Art Miami, with Everard Read, Miami, USA
- 2018 Summer, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
People & Portraiture, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 2017 FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Turbine Art Fair with 50ty/50ty, Johannesburg, SA
- 2016 365 Days of Projects & Collaborations, David Krut, Johannesburg, SA
AKAA Art Fair, with Everard Read, Paris, France
FNB JOBURG Art Fair, David Krut Projects, Johannesburg, SA
Inch x Inch, David Krut Projects, Johannesburg, SA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Nocturne, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 2015 Homage, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Empire, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Imago Mundi - Map of New Art, Benetton Collection, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice Biennale, Italy
TWENTY: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Turchin, Centre for the Visual Arts,
Appalachian State University, North Carolina, USA; Beijing Biennale, China
- 2013 Material/Representation, Brundyn+, Cape Town, SA
- 2012 Collateral Segment - BRICS, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India
Global Groove, Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan, USA
- 2010 Spier Contemporary Biennial, Cape Town, SA
- 2009 Dada South, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
- 2007 South African Art, Danubiana Art Museum, Bratislava, Hungary
- 2005 Videobrazil, WWF Anthology Performance, Brazil
- 2004 A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa, National Center for African American Arts,
Boston, USA
- 2003 On the road again, Engler & Piper Projekte, Berlin, Germany
MTN New Contemporaries, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, SA
- 2002 In no particular order (vol.1), 16th Rencontres Video Art Plastique, Normandy, France
- 2001 World Wide Video festival, Arti et Amicae, Amsterdam, Netherlands

AWARDS

- 2005 Winner of the permanent public art installation competition, Iziko South African National
Gallery
- 2002 Michaelis Prize, UCT, Cape Town, SA
- 2002 Simon Gershin prize, UCT, Cape Town, SA
- 1994 Irma Stern prize, UCT, Cape Town, SA

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Vass László Collection, Veszprém, Hungary
Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
University of Cape Town Collection, Cape Town, SA
Cuvee Collection, South Africa

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PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 The Divided Self, Everard Read
- 2014 Artwork for *The Five Magic Pebbles, and other stories* written by Don Mattera, published by Rhodeworks, Berlin
- 2004 *A Decade of Democracy: South African Art 1994-2004*, edited by Emma Bedford, published by the Iziko Museums of Cape Town, Iziko South African National Gallery